



## RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Rural Housing Service  
Rural Business – Cooperative Service  
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*Dedicated to Strengthening and Serving Rural America*

**SUBJECT:** ARCHITECTURAL TECHNICAL GUIDE 0004 (December 19, 2002)  
Change in the Thermal Performance Construction Standard for  
New Manufactured Housing Financed by Rural Housing Service  
Single Family Housing (SFH) and Multi-Family Housing (MFH)  
Programs

### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this technical guide is to discuss a major change which occurred in 1999 to the thermal performance construction standard for new manufactured housing financed by the Agency under its SFH and MFH programs and to provide Colorado-specific thermal data for use in implementing the new standard.

### **IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Please reference the Special Procedure Notice which was issued on October 4, 1999 and which provided a two-page insert for Exhibit D of RD Instruction 1924-A, "Planning and Performing Construction and Other Development". The insert contained a new section, entitled Subparagraph IV.G., "New Manufactured Housing", which replaced the Agency's former internal (Exhibit D) five-zone, thermal standard with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's), three-zone, thermal standard which is contained in the HUD "*Federal Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standard*" (FMHCSS). New manufactured housing built to the FMHCSS is automatically provided with a thermal certification sticker (usually located on a wall somewhere inside the home), commonly referred to as the HUD "*Comfort Heating and Comfort Cooling Certificate*", which denotes for which HUD thermal zone the unit has been constructed.

This certificate lists only HUD thermal Zone 3 units as suitable for sale in Colorado. This will make our life easy as only a "3" on the line circled in the upper right corner of the certificate will need to be verified for Agency funding in Colorado. The reason is that HUD thermal Zone 3 covers geographical areas with 4,501+ winter heating degree days and all areas of Colorado exceed 5,000 winter heating degree days.

The former practice of submitting thermal data on a particular manufactured home model to the State Architect for review and later requiring the installation of a separate Rural Development thermal sticker on an erected unit is, thus, being discontinued. Please consult the State Architect if you have any further questions on this subject.

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